

**SPOTLIGHT**

# End-of-Life Doula

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“Thanks to your donations, others in our community find respite from daily health challenges that help them recharge, renew and often restore their hope.”

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As these hot, humid days leave no doubt summer is still here, also we are reminded of strolls along a shady walk, beautiful sunsets, and, of course, beach days with cooling breezes. Those fond memories are reminders of the importance of having tranquility and peacefulness in our lives.

In this issue, you will read about a young patient who finds stress relieving tranquil moments in the gentle movement of a special outdoor swing, made possible by donors.

Thanks to your donations, others in our community find respite from daily health challenges that help them recharge, renew and often restore their hope. Those important moments come in many forms.

- Our community's veterans are not forgotten. Our Tidewell Honors Veterans programs provide world-class care, comfort and compassion to these brave men, women--and their families--while paying attention to the special needs of military families.
- Families find hope and healing through the programs and activities at the beautiful Tidewell Family Grief Center in Ellenton and a new Labyrinth Garden recently installed there.
- Music therapy and expressive art sessions bring moments of calm and relief, while complementing and supporting the medical care our wonderful teams provide.

**None of these programs would be possible without you.** The Tidewell Foundation team is honored to meet with you to connect you to a program important to you.

We hope you enjoy these last days of summer and get to relax and recenter. We hope to see you soon.

Yours in the mission,

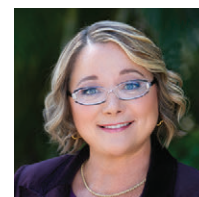
**Jonathan D. Fleece**

President, Empath Health  
President and CEO, Tidewell Hospice



**Debbie Mason, CFRE, APR, CPRC, FELLOW PRSA**

President, Tidewell Foundation  
EVP /Tidewell Hospice



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Air Force One Pilot On 9/11 to Share Experiences From Historic Missions

Despite initial confusion on Sept. 11, 2001, it was quickly apparent the nation was at war. **Col. Mark W. Tillman**, Commander and pilot of Air Force One, was clear on thing: his aircraft was on the ground in Sarasota and his President was a sitting duck. It was time to get airborne.



Col. Tillman will discuss his experiences in a free program, presented by Tidewell Hospice and its Tidewell Honors Veterans Program, in partnership with Tidewell Foundation, on **September 28, 2022**. The program is offered in tribute to America's veterans.

On 9/11 Col. Tillman was responsible for keeping the President out of harm's way and connecting the flying Oval Office to the nation's first responders. He also was the first pilot to fly the Commander-in-Chief into a war zone, in Baghdad, Iraq.

Tidewell Foundation received a \$30,000 grant from the **Community Foundation of Sarasota County** through the **Walter Haskins Fund in memory of Stacey K. Haskins** in support of the event.

### Tidewell Honors Veterans

Since 2008, Tidewell Honors Veterans program has served more than 21,000 veterans in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and DeSoto counties, providing specialized care that recognizes the unique challenges that may exist in military families—all at no cost to them. Tidewell is one of only two hospices in Florida to achieve Level 5 certification in **We Honor Veterans**, a national program focused on veterans in hospice care. **Tidewell's program is funded 100 percent by donors.**



Retired Air Force Col. Mark W. Tillman will speak in Sarasota on **Wednesday, Sept. 28** at 10 a.m. **at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall**. The program is free, with open seating, and requires no tickets or reservations.



### Tidewell Trot: November 5

Walk or run solo or with family, work colleagues or friends to help support the uplifting mission of Tidewell Hospice.

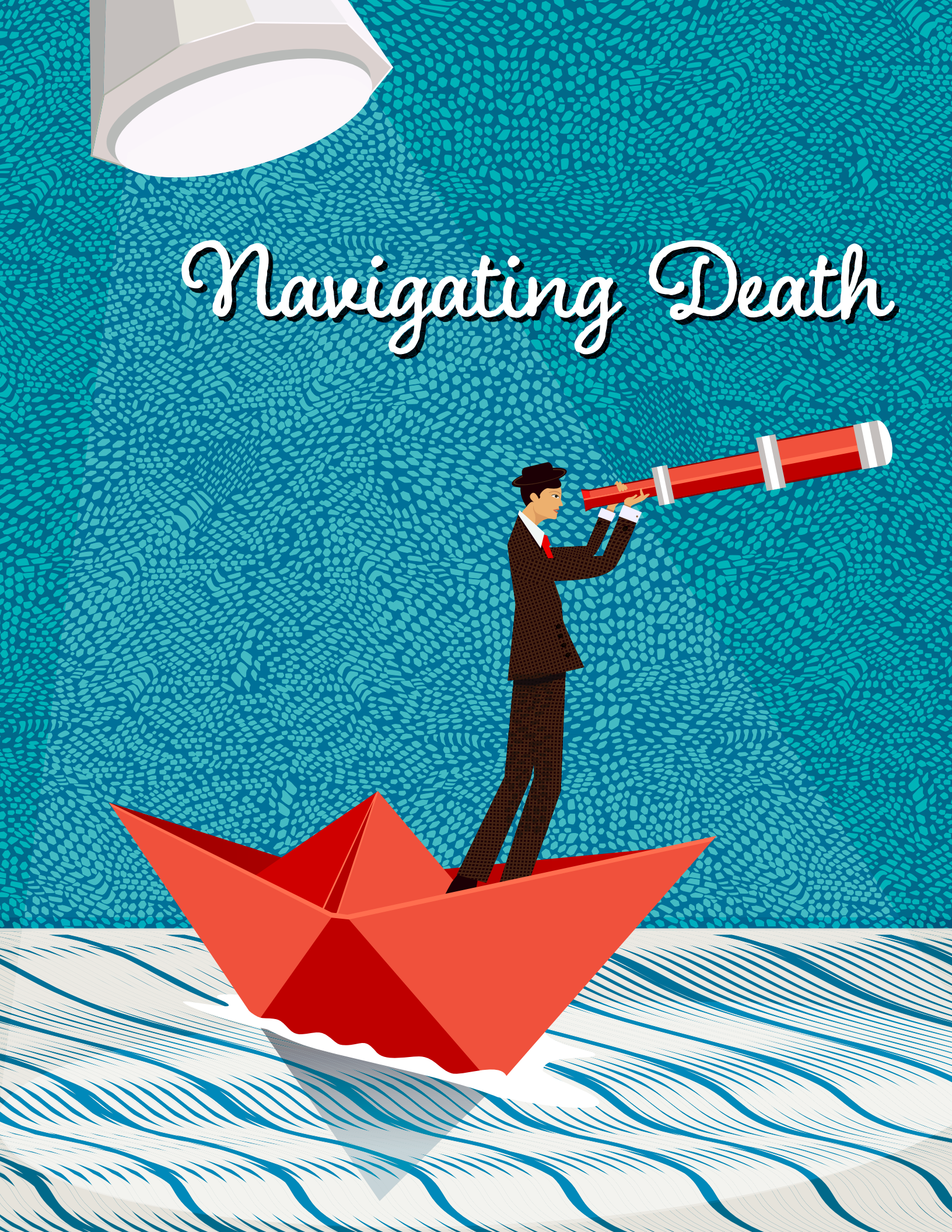
**Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, 8 a.m.**  
**Nathan Benderson Park**

Sign up; be a sponsor; form a team (there are fun prizes); participate in honor of a loved one who died. Your heart and the Tidewell Foundation will say thank you.

**To be a sponsor call (941) 552-7569.**  
**Learn more and register at**  
**[TidewellTrot.org](https://TidewellTrot.org).**



# Navigating Death



**D**eath, like birth, is part of our human experience. Yet we rarely live our final days with the same intention we apply to the rest of our lives. The Tidewell Foundation wants to help people embrace the experience as a meaningful part of the life journey.

## Volunteer doulas help hospice patients prepare for their death journey.

Do you want to die at home, in the hospital, or at your favorite lakeside cottage? Who do you want with you? Do you want music? Do you want a celebration of life? A Tidewell Hospice specially trained doula can be your guide and voice on such matters.

"We are there for that person and that person only," said volunteer doula Eric Nielsen. "It's not about our opinion or what I or anyone else wants. It's about what the person who is dying

wants. We actively listen to the person" and communicate on their behalf.

Often as part of a full care team, Tidewell Hospice's specially trained end-of-life doulas work with patients to think through and prepare for their death, ensuring the person voices their desires and preferences. They also help facilitate "life legacies" special projects to shape how the dying person will be remembered.

The doula often is part of a patient's vigil, remaining bedside during the final days and hours to provide comfort and support for the patient and family. By helping individuals and families prepare on practical, emotional, and spiritual levels, doulas bring meaning and comfort to the experience.

**Complementary services, such as the End-of-Life Doula program, are made possible by donor support to the Tidewell Foundation.**

## Volunteer Doulas Find Passion In Service

Tidewell's end-of-life doulas speak about finding their passion and enriching their lives through their service.

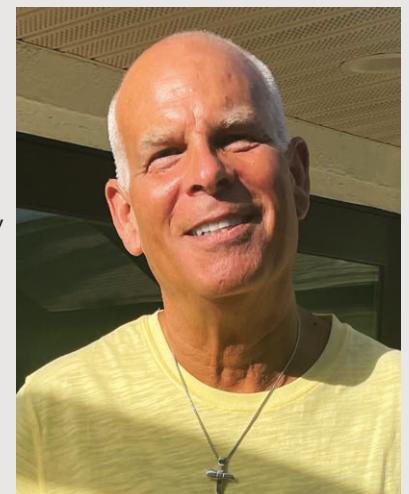
Volunteer **Robin Colamarino** said she was able to help a patient's son and a few friends reconnect "their hearts with hers." She called it a pleasure "to help her plan the ending days of her human life with dignity compassion and love."

**Lindsay Currie** provided connection for a patient who had no family in the area and little in common with those around him. He thanked her for bringing "sunshine into his life."

**Penelope Bodry-Sanders** epitomized a doula's role when her patient's wish to die alone in her bed, calling anything else unnecessary "sentimentality," took Penelope by surprise. She

remembered the voice of her instructor, "Meet them where they are." She added that her patient loved her laughs and smiles.

**Eric Nielson**, volunteer for Blue Butterfly, Tidewell Hospice's grief program for children, said he entered the doula training because "it's about being in service to others and being in service to God."



"We need to be kinder to each other, more loving, more understanding."



## DONATIONS SPOTLIGHT



### Labyrinth Garden Grows Hope

Upon arriving at the Tidewell Family Grief Center in Ellenton (TFGCE), loved ones are embraced by beauty, and welcomed toward hope and healing.

Today, individuals and families can stroll through a labyrinth garden, catalyzed by a \$25,000 gift from **Jonathan Fleece**, President and CEO of Tidewell Hospice/President of Empath Health, and his wife, **Amy**, in honor of Amy's mother who died when she and her brother were teenagers.

"We look forward to watching the labyrinth garden grow, bloom and blossom so that families will have a place to transition from feeling 'lost' to 'found,'" said the Fleecees.

The TFGCE was made possible through a \$1.1 million grant from the Tidewell Foundation, including a lead gift from the Eppard Family Foundation. **All the services and programs offered through the Center are free thanks to the generosity of donors to the Tidewell Foundation.**

### Unrestricted Gifts Help Meet Greatest Needs

For **Jack Rohner**, making an unrestricted gift to Tidewell Foundation was an act of love and gratitude. Now living in Sarasota, he heard about the positive experiences people had with Tidewell Hospice, and reflected on the experience he and his wife of 70 years, Helen, had with hospice care in Chicago. "They brought relief to both of us, my wife and me," he said.

Unrestricted gifts to Tidewell Foundation attest to the trust families have in Tidewell for care. His gift helped ensure that people who need the world-class care of Tidewell Hospice receive it regardless of their ability to pay.

To those contemplating making a gift, Mr. Rohner said, "If you have it in your heart and you approach it from a position of gratitude, you should make a gift."

**To learn about making an unrestricted gift, call (941) 552-7546 or visit [TidewellFoundation.org](https://TidewellFoundation.org)**

## CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

### Dignity Memorial

A heartfelt commitment is reflected in Dignity Memorial's service, and also in its support of the Tidewell Foundation and its philanthropic mission to Tidewell Hospice.

"The relationship we have developed with Tidewell Foundation and Tidewell Hospice has been extremely rewarding," said **David Luginbuel**, Dignity Memorial Market Director. "Tidewell's approach to caring for our communities sets the standard for other organizations

## Wish Granted to Restore a Child's Special Swing

For **Keith Torres**, 12, swinging was time to recapture youthful jubilation and to forget about the more grown-up challenges of his chronic illness.

When he outgrew his child-size swing, this special time was lost to him. Fortunately, his Tidewell Hospice social worker, Mary Beth, reached out to the Wishes Fund at Tidewell Foundation, and a new swing was purchased, and then installed by the Tidewell facilities team shortly after. Keith's time in the sunshine, enjoying the gentle sway and welcoming summer breezes, was his once again.



**The Wishes Fund exists only because of donor support. Thank you, donors, for helping to bring joy to a child and so many others at a time they need it most.**

## Linen Drive: One Ton of Success

The second annual **Shower Patients with Linens and Love Drive** was a ton of success—literally. Through the generosity of the community and gracious sponsorship of Dignity Memorial, the Tidewell Foundation was able to collect more than 2,000 pounds of sheets, towels and other linens as well as raise \$3,600 in cash donations for future replenishment purchases as needed for the remainder of the year. These donations will help hundreds of patients in Tidewell's care who are limited in resources and care.

**Thank you to all who donated!**

to follow. Their vision not only inspires, but the culture they have created is uplifting.”

Dignity became a corporate sponsor with the Foundation in 2021, recognizing the community value the Foundation provides in grants made to Tidewell Hospice for its programs.

Adding value to community drove development of Dignity's newest facility in Lakewood Ranch. The contemporary design creates an uplifting environment to celebrate a life lived. It serves as a model for other facilities.

Dignity Memorial has more than 125 dedicated associates and 14 funeral homes and cemeteries, including Robert Toale and Sons, Groover and Kays-Ponger Uselton in the Tidewell service area. With Pet Passing and Companion Meadows, Dignity helps all members of the family, even the furry ones.



**Debbie Mason and leaders from Linen Drive sponsor, Dignity Memorial, pose among containers of donated linens.**

**Dignity**<sup>®</sup>  
MEMORIAL

# Want to talk about your contribution?

Our donor advisors are here to help.

No matter how you donate—or how much—our donor advisors are available to help you plan your gift, event, or sponsorship.

## Third Party Events

(your planned events that raise funds for us):



Megan Wenger, CFRE  
**Senior Philanthropy Advisor**  
meganwenger@tidewellfoundation.org  
941-552-7515

## Planned Giving, Corporate Sponsorships, Gifts from Foundations, DAF, and Individuals:



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## MANATEE COUNTY



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## CHARLOTTE & DESOTO COUNTIES



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 **TIDEWELL FOUNDATION**

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